

Guidelines for Churches hosting Godly Play Trainings during Covid-19

Epidemiologists have already documented that church events, such as choir practices, funerals and weddings, have been a source of transmission of the virus to groups of people, so our decisions about how we gather are critical. We will not return to normal. Disasters and pandemics produce a new normal; expect to be changed and equipped for new ways of gathering, serving and growing. The course of the pandemic will not remain static, so discerning when it is appropriate to safely hold a training is specific to your context. We urge everyone to abide by the directives of civic officials and the guidance of public health authorities.

What follows are some general guidelines for you to consider if you are able to schedule an in-person training.

General Guidelines:

- All those participating should monitor their own health, and anyone who has any of the possible Covid-19 symptoms should not attend. Any fees paid can be applied to another participant or be put toward a future training. Check for the most recent list of possible symptoms here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- All attendees and trainers must abide by any church practices for monitoring symptoms (temperature checks, etc.).
- All attendees and trainers will be required to sign a liability waiver.
- We recommend that attendees be seated at least six feet apart throughout the training unless they are part of the same household, and every person should be assigned a chair for the duration of the event. This may require reducing the number of attendees to ensure there is adequate space. The size of the training will be determined by the size of the meeting space and Godly Play Rooms that will be used.
- All attendees and trainers must wear face coverings or masks, except where a person is unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical or disabling condition.
- Promote ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible. For example, consider opening windows and doors to allow airflow.
- Make preparations for restroom use, such as limiting the number who may enter at one time or using tape on the floor to maintain proper physical distancing.

- ❑ Encourage hygiene measures, e.g., alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol and cleaning wipes for frequently touched surfaces should be made available.
- ❑ Take great care in planning how food will be served. We encourage you to serve individually packaged food items and beverages prepared by a server wearing appropriate protection (mask & gloves).
- ❑ If worship is provided as part of the training, we recommend that there be no group singing and that communion is not served.

Guidelines about materials

- ❑ Godly Play materials that will be used during the training should be sanitized a week in advance and quarantined thereafter. Guidelines for how to clean the materials can be found here: <https://www.godlyplayresources.com/>
- ❑ All materials to be shared during the event (Notebooks, handouts, name tags, pens, etc.) should be prepared a week ahead of time if possible, placed in individual bags and quarantined thereafter. When distributed, we recommend wearing plastic gloves.
- ❑ Trainers should also pack and quarantine any items they plan to share (Story manuals, books, etc.) a week ahead of the training when possible. When distributed, we recommend wearing plastic gloves.
- ❑ Before handling any Godly Play materials Trainers and participants must use hand sanitizer and only one person should handle the materials at a time.
- ❑ In congruence with social distancing, blessing and threshold practices will need to be adapted accordingly.
- ❑ Since many Godly Play Rooms will be too small to accommodate social distancing for the attendees, story presentations will most likely be made in a larger plenary space.
- ❑ Certificates will be sent out via email after the completion of the event.